

Remarks

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected.

Claims 1 has been amended.

Claims 1-10 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has removed the previous rejection, but now rejects claims 1 through 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the previously cited Fischer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,349,004) and Geist (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0030597) in view of the newly cited Kiernan Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0093757).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contentions and submits the following remarks in response.

The amended independent claim 1 is directed to a light pipe for use in an electronic display arrangement. The pipe includes a transparent optical relay *made of a single piece* designed to transmit light signals from an entry surface receiving light from a micro display to an exit surface going toward the eye of a user for viewing a virtual image, as claimed and supported by the specification portion of the application.

In this arrangement, the claimed recite a light pipe with a diffractive component *formed directly on the entry surface of the transparent optical relay made of a single piece*. It is generally known to place a diffractive lens at the entry to light pipe, for example to use in electronic display arrangements. However, as noted in paragraphs [0009 - 0010], such arrangements are complex and expensive to assemble. Claim 1 provides for a light pipe that is

made of a single piece. For example, this single piece can be fabricated by injection molding, while still providing quality images. See paragraph [0011].

To form the rejection, the Examiner notes on page 3 of the Office Action that neither Fischer nor Geist disclose a diffractive component formed directly on the entry surface of the light pipe relay. However, the Examiner asserts that element 32 of Kiernan is a diffractive lens that is "*coupled to the surface of light guide [42]*" and that it would be obvious to combine this feature with Fischer and Geist to arrive at the present invention as claimed.

Applicants respectfully disagree. As noted in the prior Amendment, and as acknowledged by the Examiner, neither Fischer nor Geist a diffractive component formed directly on the entry surface of the relay.

The newly cited Kiernan reference is directed to an improved tri-mode seeker for mounting on an airborne platform such as a missile seeker. As noted by the Examiner the Kiernan reference does disclose a diffractive lens 32. However, this diffractive lens 32 is not formed directly on the entry surface of a transparent optical relay made of a single piece. Rather it is inserted adjacent the dielectric secondary mirror 26 as noted in paragraph 32 (middle).

As such, even if the references were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the resulting structure would still not teach or suggest all of the elements as claimed in independent claim 1. For example, there is not no teaching or suggestion in any one of Fischer, Geist or Kiernan, either alone or in combination with one another, that disclose a light pipe being of a single piece, with a diffractive component formed directly on the entry surface of the light pipe's transparent optical relay.

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For at least the foregoing reason, Applicant requests that the rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn. Also, as claims 2-10 depend from claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

SOFER & HAROUN, L.L.P.

By



Joseph Sofer
Reg. No 34,438
317 Madison Avenue
Suite 910
New York, NY 10017
212-697-2800
Customer # 39600